



COVID-19 Return to School Protocols

When should students stay home and when can they return to school?

SITUATION	RETURN TO SCHOOL	RECOMMENDED DOCUMENTATION
Positive COVID-19 Test		
Has your child had a positive COVID-19 test?	After 5-day isolation AND 24 hours without fever (without fever-reducing medication) AND improvement in symptoms. Regardless of symptoms, case should wear a mask when around others for 10 days following symptom onset or positive test date.	None
Symptoms and Known Exposure		
Does your child have COVID-19 symptoms after recent exposure to an individual with COVID-19?	After 5-day isolation AND 24 hours without fever (without fever-reducing medication) AND improvement in symptoms. Regardless of symptoms, case should wear a mask indoors in public for 10 days following symptom onset or positive test date.	None
Known Exposure		
<p>Has your child been within six feet for 15 minutes or greater to a non-household individual with suspected or confirmed COVID-19?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Household Contacts</p> <p>Household contacts click here to go to the Tennessee Department of Health guidelines for Releasing Cases and Contacts from Isolation and Quarantines as they apply to Household Contacts.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UNVACCINATED STUDENTS (those who never completed the primary vaccine series) are recommended to quarantine for 5 days starting the day after the last exposure to the positive case. Contacts should get tested on day 5, continue to self-monitor for symptoms, and wear a mask when around others for an additional 5 days. 2. PREVIOUS CASES are not recommended to quarantine if they meet all the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Had COVID-19 illness within the previous 3 months and ▪ Have recovered and ▪ Remain without COVID-19 symptoms 3. VACCINATED STUDENTS (those who completed the primary vaccine series) are not recommended to quarantine if they remain asymptomatic since exposure. They should test 5 days after the exposure and wear a mask indoors in public for 10 days or until test results are negative. <p><i>*Children ages 12-17 are not currently required to have a booster in order to be considered fully vaccinated by the TDH & CDC. Therefore, all students who have completed the primary vaccine series will be considered fully vaccinated for quarantine recommendation purposes.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. None 2. Proof of previous positive COVID-19 test result. 3. None

SITUATION	RETURN TO SCHOOL	RECOMMENDED DOCUMENTATION
<p>Does your child have no known exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19 AND only ONE low-risk symptom:</p> <p>LOW-RISK SYMPTOMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Congestion/runny nose ▪ Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea ▪ Sore throat ▪ Headache ▪ Body aches 	<p>After improvement of symptoms.</p>	<p>None</p>
No Known Exposure AND 2+ Low-Risk OR 1+ High-Risk Symptom		
<p>Does your child have no known exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19 AND TWO or more of the following low-risk OR ONE or more of the following high-risk symptoms?</p> <p>LOW-RISK SYMPTOMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Congestion/runny nose ▪ Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea ▪ Sore throat ▪ Headache ▪ Body aches <p>HIGH-RISK SYMPTOMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cough ▪ Difficulty breathing ▪ Loss of taste/smell ▪ Fever 100.0 or greater 	<p>THREE RECOMMENDED OPTIONS FOR WHEN YOUR CHILD MAY RETURN TO SCHOOL:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. After 24 hours without a fever (without fever-reducing medication) <u>AND</u> improvement in symptoms with a negative COVID-19 test after symptoms began. OR 2. After 24 hours without a fever (without fever-reducing medication) <u>AND</u> improvement in symptoms with written documentation from a licensed medical provider with a diagnosis that the symptoms were caused by a condition other than COVID-19. <i>(Examples of acceptable diagnoses include fever due to urinary tract infection, strep (confirmed by a positive strep test), rash from poison ivy, etc. Diagnoses of respiratory and viral conditions such as allergic rhinitis, seasonal allergies, upperrespiratory tract infection (URI), pneumonia, pharyngitis, viral illness, etc., DO NOT exclude the diagnosis of COVID-19 and DO NOT justify return to school.)</i> OR 3. After 5-day isolation AND 24 hours without a fever (without fever-reducing medication) AND improvement in symptoms. 	<p>DOCUMENTATION BASED UPON RETURN TO SCHOOL OPTION CHOSEN IN COLUMN 2:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proof of a negative COVID-19 test after symptoms began. 2. Documentation from licensed medical provider with an acceptable diagnosis that symptoms were caused by a condition other than COVID-19. 3. No documentation required.

Source:

The Tennessee Department of Health's specific guidelines for releasing individuals from isolation and quarantine are detailed on the following website: <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/cedep/novel-coronavirus/Isolation-QuarantineRelease.pdf>